

Phone # 615-889-6618
Fax # 615-885-2496
Ncs@theytalk.com



P.O. Box 523
Hermitage, Tn 37076

May 31, 2000

Mr. David Waddell
Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

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TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Dear Mr. Waddell:

We would like to voice our opinion and circumstance in regards to Docket 99-00613 involving a Petition on Small Local Exchange Coalition for a suspension of 47 USC Section 51 (B), 251 (C) pursuant to 47 USC Section 251 (F) and 47 USC 253 (B). It is understanding that this docket is a request to lift the restrictions of local carriers from stopping the access of other CLEC's to provide services that the Small Exchanges either can't or won't provide customers. If this were not the correct docket, we would appreciate knowing which one is correct so we can file our comments appropriately.

I personally have lived in Tennessee Telephone or TDS territory for a number of years. We are looking at moving our business over the county line into their territory. For several months we have requested DSL services for both residence and business (so it would be available when we move). We would also like bundled local, long distance and ISP on a common trunk like T1. We have been laughed at as far as DSL is concerned and find that no one is allowed to provide alternative services that TDS does not want to sell. We feel that this should be in violation of antitrust laws and that they should not be protected. How can you protect an organization that is a multi-million dollar corporation worth over \$100 a share on the NYSE?

It is my understanding that the TRA is supposed to protect the consumer. If a firm has the capacity to provide service but does not want to provide competitive services, then other firms should be allowed to compete in that marketplace. Furthermore, since TDS is ringed in Middle and East Tennessee by Bell territory, if they don't want to compete, they can always seek to sell the territory to Bell. We would like an opportunity for BellSouth, BlueStar, USLEC, Intermedia (ICIX) or Global Crossing's to supply us with alternative services.

Respectively submitted,

Mr. Bob Richie
President